

The Casco Bay Watershed Wetlands Characterization is a planning tool to help identify significant wetland resources and affiliated upland systems. This map identifies wetlands that are likely to provide floodflow control, sediment retention, wetlands-related plant and animal habitat, finfish habitat and shellfish habitat. It also identifies wetlands that may have value for educational and research opportunities. There are additional and important wetland functions and values that are not depicted by this map. In addition, smaller wetlands, particularly vernal pools, drier-end forested wetlands, as well as the extent of larger wetlands are known to be underrepresented in the NWI data used to create this map.

It is important to use local knowledge as well as other data sources to insure consideration of all wetlands when undertaking an analysis of wetland resources at the local level. When using the Characterization, emphasis should not be placed on the total number of hits received by an individual wetland in a manner which automatically makes a wetland with more hits more important than a wetland with fewer hits. It is important to review the associated Characterization Table to determine which hits a particular wetland received and then assess that wetland in relation to its surrounding landscape.

This map and its depiction neither substitute for nor eliminate the need to perform on-the-ground wetland delineation and functional assessment. In no way shall use of this map diminish or alter the regulatory protection that all wetlands are accorded under applicable State and Federal laws.